DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF XENICHTHYS (XENICHTHYS XENURUS) FROM THE WEST COAST OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

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Xenichthys xenurus, sp. nov .(4356).

Allied to *Xenichthys californiensis* Steindachner; belonging to the group or subgenus, with the soft dorsal and anal short, not longer than the spinous dorsal.

Body rather deep, compressed; mouth very oblique; the maxillary barely reaching the vertical from the front of the pupil. Teeth in jaws small, in a band in front, which becomes a single series toward the sides; similar teeth on vomer, none on palatines or tongue.

Preorbital distinctly serrulate; preopercle evenly and finely serrate on the lower margin and on the angle, its upright edge entire above the angle; opercle terminating in two flat points. Eye very large, its diameter $2\frac{3}{5}$ in head. Gill-rakers long and slender, about two-fifths the diameter of the eye, their number about 9+24.

Lateral line with a slight curve in front, not quite concurrent with the back.

Spinous dorsal very high, the spines slender and somewhat flexible, the fifth and longest about two-thirds length of head; notch between spinous and soft parts deep. Anal spines rather stouter than those of the dorsal, the third longest, but little shorter than the first soft ray and two-thirds the longest dorsal spine. Caudal deeply forked, the lobes elongate, the middle rays but one third the length of the lower.

Pectorals two-fifths length of head. Ventrals barely reaching vent, their length equal to the distance from the snout to the posterior margin of orbit.

Base of caudal scaly; rest of the fin as well as the dorsals and anal naked, the scaly sheath of the dorsal and anal, leaving the last three rays free.

Head $3\frac{1}{4}$ in length; depth $2\frac{2}{3}$. D. IX–I, 11; A. III, 11; Lat. l. 51.

Color olivaceous above; silvery below.

This species is known from one specimen (No. 4356 U. S. Nat. Mus.) sent to the United States National Museum from San Salvador, where it was taken several years ago by Capt. J. M. Dow. Its small number of fin rays distinguished it at once from *X. xanti* and *X. agassizii*, while from *X. californiensis* it differs in numerous respects.

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